

Appl. No.: 10/032,717
Amdt. dated 09/06/2005
Reply to Office action of 5/6/05

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-3, 9-12, 17-19, 38-40, 43-46, 49-52, and 55-65 were pending in the application. This Amendment is being filed concurrently with an Appeal Brief. Claim 65 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and has been cancelled in order to reduce issues on appeal.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the rejection of claim 65 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) has been obviated by amendment. Applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is solicited.

If in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject Application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

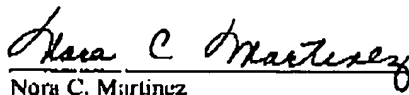


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CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the US Patent and Trademark Office at facsimile number 571-273-8300 on the date shown below.


Nora C. Martinez

9/6/05
Date